

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Wednesday, 31 May 2017

1. QUESTION FROM MR R VINT
Re: Heart of the South West Devolution Proposals

I understand that the Heart Of The South West Devolution Proposals will be reviewed by the Cabinet between the 14th June and 6th September, including consideration of equality and/or impact assessments, and that following the recent County Council elections this month that: *“A formal consultation ‘White Paper’ will be released to all Councils and stakeholders. This will be a public consultation to directly inform the content of the Productivity Plan”*. What steps have been taken and/or will be taken to ensure the views of i) the Small Business sector, ii) the Renewable Energy Business sector and iii) Neighbourhood Plan groups will be heard and will have as much influence on the final proposal as the businesses with which the Local Enterprise Partnership is currently working?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

This Report was agreed before the announcement of a General election. In view of the Election, the timetable for the next phase of development of the Productivity Plan is to be extended and this Council will not be giving this matter further consideration until after the summer recess. The White Paper will be released to the public and key stakeholders once account has been taken of the new Government’s intentions for Devolution and the Industrial Strategy. As set out in the previous report the White Paper will be accompanied by an Engagement Strategy to ensure key stakeholders and the public are consulted. An impact assessment is being undertaken to inform the development of this plan. The Renewable Energy Sector, small business and local town and parish councils involved in neighbourhood planning are on the list of stakeholders to be consulted.